

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6

J1

2lr2733  
CF 2lr2631

---

By: **Senators Colburn, Currie, Mathias, Middleton, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Finance

---

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Health – Prostate Cancer Screening**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Congress of the United States to seek the  
4 withdrawal of the United States Preventive Services Task Force draft  
5 recommendations against prostate-specific-antigen screening for prostate  
6 cancer for men in all age groups.

7 WHEREAS, The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)  
8 acknowledges that prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed nonskin cancer in  
9 men in the United States, with one in six American men expected to be diagnosed with  
10 prostate cancer in his lifetime; and

11 WHEREAS, Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related  
12 deaths in men in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society  
14 estimated that, in 2011, 240,890 men in the United States would be diagnosed with  
15 prostate cancer and 33,720 would die of the disease – more than one man every 30  
16 minutes; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society projected that in Maryland alone,  
18 there would be approximately 5,060 newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer and 770  
19 deaths from the disease in 2011; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2008, the USPSTF recommended against prostate-specific  
21 antigen (PSA) screening for prostate cancer in men at least 75 years old; and

22 WHEREAS, In October 2011, the USPSTF replaced its 2008 recommendation  
23 with a new recommendation against PSA screening for prostate cancer in all age  
24 groups; and



1 WHEREAS, The USPSTF issued its recent recommendation without the benefit  
2 of having a urologist or oncologist, the two types of physicians who specialize in  
3 diagnosing and treating patients with prostate cancer, on the USPSTF; and

4 WHEREAS, The USPSTF's new recommendation regarding prostate cancer  
5 screening follows the public outcry surrounding the USPSTF's recommendation, in  
6 November 2009, against mammograms for women ages 40 through 49 and against  
7 teaching women to do breast self-exams; and

8 WHEREAS, The USPSTF states that its October 2011 recommendation applies  
9 to men in the U.S. population that do have symptoms that are highly suspicious for  
10 prostate cancer, even though it is well understood that by the time a man evidences  
11 "symptoms" of prostate cancer the disease is more likely to have spread to areas  
12 outside the prostate and is far less likely to be curable; and

13 WHEREAS, The USPSTF states that its new recommendation against PSA  
14 screening applies regardless of race, even though the USPSTF acknowledges that  
15 African American men have a substantially higher prostate-cancer incidence rate  
16 than white men and more than twice the prostate-cancer mortality rate; and

17 WHEREAS, The death rate from prostate cancer has decreased by nearly 40%  
18 since the advent of widespread PSA screening in the early to mid 1990s; and

19 WHEREAS, The most recently updated, best designed, and controlled study of  
20 prostate cancer, the Goteborg Randomized Population-Based Prostate Cancer  
21 Screening Trial, found that with screening, deaths from prostate cancer dropped 44  
22 percent over a 14-year period, compared with men who did not undergo screening, and  
23 that prostate-cancer screening efficiency was similar to other cancers; and

24 WHEREAS, The USPSTF's recommendation against PSA screening puts into  
25 harm's way the men who are most at risk, namely, the underinsured, those who live in  
26 rural areas where health care is not readily available, those who have a family history  
27 of prostate cancer, and particularly African American men, who have the highest  
28 incidence of and death rates from prostate cancer; now, therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
30 General Assembly requests that the Congress of the United States seek the  
31 withdrawal of the USPSTF draft recommendations against PSA screening for prostate  
32 cancer for men in all age groups; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
34 Legislative Services to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Barbara A.  
35 Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510;  
36 and Representatives Andrew P. Harris, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P.  
37 Sarbanes, Donna Edwards, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E.  
38 Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., House Office Building, Washington D.C.  
39 20515.

